

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN Suite 550 12000 GOVERNMENT CENTER PARKWAY FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035-0071

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To the Citizens of Fairfax County:

It is my pleasure to present the <u>Fiscal Year 2002 Adopted Budget Plan</u>. The general fund disbursements for the upcoming fiscal year total \$2.31 billion, an increase of \$124.72 million or 5.71 percent over the *FY2001 Revised Budget Plan*. This budget clearly reflects a broad-based consensus of community values and priorities that benefits all of our citizens.

As has been the case every year since FY 1997, the Board of Supervisors balanced this year's budget while maintaining the real estate tax rate at \$1.23 per \$100 of assessed value. This budget, as promised, limits the County's expenditures to its available funds, as we honor our commitment to live within our means. Market fluctuations and a stalemate in the Commonwealth of Virginia's budget process made this year's County budget deliberations more complicated than originally anticipated. Nonetheless, through a mixture of sound fiscal policies, strategic planning, and community consensus, we approved a budget that is fiscally responsible and addresses the critical needs of a growing and diverse population.

To this end, the Board of Supervisors continues to demonstrate its commitment and concern for the families, children, and youth of this County in numerous ways, including a significant budget allotment for the Fairfax County Public Schools as well as funding for youth, family, and community initiatives. For example, the County Executive proposed, and the Board of Supervisors approved, funding for twelve additional beds at the Women's Shelter. Funding was allocated towards the relocation and expansion of the Groveton Senior Center, which will allow that facility to increase the number of programs offered to residents. The budget for FY 2002 also funds the creation of a new School-Aged Child Care (SACC) center, as well as the expansion of three existing SACC centers.

Our commitment to education is underscored by this year's total transfer of more than \$1.18 billion to Fairfax County Public Schools, of which the Operating transfer equals \$1.078 billion and the school debt service accounts for \$105 million. This represents 51.3% of the total FY 2002 County budget. A review of available funds from the Third Quarter of the FY 2001 budget allowed the Board of Supervisors to add \$1.4 million to the County Executive's initial proposal, including approximately \$700,000 to the FCPS operating transfer proposed by the County Executive, as well as approximately \$700,000 for school debt service. The Board of Supervisors also cut \$15.8 million from County programs in FY 2002 to add to the school transfer, bringing the total increase for schools to over \$17 million above the Advertised FY2002 budget. This represents a \$103.1 million, 9.55% increase over FY2001 in funds available for the School system. Our approval of more than \$10 million in additional funding for school debt service will allow the sale of \$130 million in school bonds in FY 2002 to accelerate the construction of new schools and the renovation of older ones throughout the County.

One of our top priorities is protecting the safety of Fairfax County citizens. Our continued investment in public safety-related programs and court-related initiatives ensures that Fairfax County continues to be a safe community in which to live, learn, work, and play. The Adopted Budget includes funding for the addition of thirty-six more police officers, eleven fire fighters, and five deputy sheriffs.



The backbone of our government is our employees. As a means of attracting and retaining highly trained professionals we are making a transition to a Pay for Performance plan. Consequently, the County will not only reward its high-performing employees with appropriate incentives, but it will continue to serve our citizens with dependable customer service and cost-effective, innovative programs. Fairfax County's Department of Information Technology, in conjunction with many other departments, continues to find new and better ways of building a government without walls, so that the County can effectively serve all of our citizens all day, every day, and in every way possible.

The Fiscal Year 2002 Adopted Budget Plan provides the County with the ability to continue to provide the high-quality services citizens expect, to develop new and innovative services and service delivery methods, and to address the critical issues facing our community.

Kate Hanley
Katherine K. Hanley